

The Colored American

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We solicit news, contributions, opinions and in fact all matters affecting the race. We will not pay for matter, however, unless it is ordered by us. All matter intended for publication should reach this office by Wednesday of each week to insure insertion in the current issue.

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SATURDAY, DECEMBER 19, 1903.

THE SUFFRAGE LEAGUE.

The Suffrage Convention, which recently held forth in this city, was a gigantic failure from every view point. The factions within and without conspired to make it the laughing stock it became, when it essayed to deal with great questions with which it had no acquaintance, except in a superficial way. The most of its leaders were impractical and hot-headed politicians with no standing at court and with no clear or intelligent ideas as to what the convention had met to accomplish. The question of suffrage was lost sight of and the convention adjourned in a disgraceful wrangle upon a question of endorsement of the President. We had expected to have heard a detailed statement of organizer Hayes' work for the cause showing the amount of money collected and disbursements made since the suffrage agitation began, but no such thing was done. We are informed that over \$1,400 has been collected in New Jersey alone by Counselor Hayes, to fight disfranchisement. If other states have done half as well, it will soon be time to stop the collections and proceed to count the gold.

We have no sort of ideas that the lines along which the suffrage fight is proceeding will avail in securing to the Negro his political rights. We do not take the idea of John Carlisle being the Chief Counsel in causes which involve the Constitutional rights of black men. Mr. Carlisle is a Democrat, those who have disfranchised the

Negro are of his party. It is hardly reasonable to assume that Mr. Carlisle will exert himself overmuch to secure for Negroes the rights which by every consideration of justice belong to them. The Democratic party has great expectations for 1904 and old time leaders like Carlisle will not throw any obstacles in its way if it can be prevented and it can. "Men do not gather figs of this kind," and Negroes ought not expect even good Democrats like Carlisle to oppose their party's policies to favor them.

We are unable to understand why Mr. Carlisle was chosen to represent these causes in the Court of Last Resort. Neither Mr. Carlisle nor Mr. John S. Wise, the son of Henry A. Wise, are large enough, or wise enough to accomplish what the Negroes of Virginia hope to accomplish in these suffrage cases. What is needed is attorneys of national repute; great Constitutional lawyers like Choate or Root of New York, who are respected by the Court because of their knowledge of the law and their standing socially and politically. While Carlisle and Wise are good lawyers in their way, they have not yet made such reputations at the bar as Messrs. Choate and Root and men of their calibre. The cause is too great and the interests at stake too important to be experimented with by the son of a great Governor and an ex-Speaker of the House of Representatives, who has yet to prove himself a great Constitutional lawyer.

It is not necessary for a convention of colored men called for the purpose of discussing the rights of the race to endorse anybody. Nor is it necessary that they condemn anybody with Jim Crow cars, Jim Crow Legislation, discrimination on account of race and color at every turn of the road. The colored people have plenty to do without fighting among themselves and abusing one another.

COLORED MEN FOR CONGRESS.

The Republicans in the lower branch of Congress have at this time a splendid opportunity of showing the colored people how much they think of them and how willing they are to give them their rights. Two colored men from South Carolina are contesting for seats. They come from districts overwhelmingly Republican, and where the blacks outnumber the whites, and yet look at these figures: First district—George S. Legare, Democrat, 3,794 votes; Aaron P. Prioleau, 175 votes. Seventh district, Democrat, 4,220 votes to 167 for A. D. Dantzler, Republican. No sane man doubts the election of Messrs. Prioleau and Dantzler. The administration is Republican; Congress is Republican by a good working majority and if civil and political justice is to be given the colored voter, now is the time.

Here is a sample of the indictment that is being rendered against us in Kentucky, preparatory to a rape upon our suffrage: "The Negro must be eliminated from Kentucky political. He pays no taxes, he regards no law, he knows no justice, reveres no ideal, and votes like a machine."

People who patronize slot machines have precious little business with savings banks.

The Suffrage League did not endorse anybody, nor accomplish anything, but it succeeded in bringing to the nation's capital a very fine brand of oratory. The speeches of Messrs. Hayes, O'Connell, Drs. Harvey, Johnson, Geo. W. Lee, S. L. Corruthers and a number of others were finished efforts, and were replete with the witchery that wins in oratory.

The much talked William Monroe Trotter, spoke at the Suffrage meeting one evening this week. As a reasoner, as a thinker, and as an orator, he is below mediocrity. He didn't class at all with the young men, who came from Pennsylvania, New York, New Jersey, and other states unhealed.

Mr. William Calvin Chase deserves a great deal of credit for his endorsement of President Roosevelt. We knew all along that he was an original Roosevelt man. Mr. Chase's influence will count for a great deal at the Chicago Convention, to which we understand he will be a delegate—perhaps.

What will poor Senator Hanna do now, that Calvin Chase has come out for Roosevelt?

The National Negro Suffrage League had a mission to perform, and the program would have been carried out to the letter, had the leaders of the movement possessed cool heads.

Unquestionably the two characters who have made the deepest impress upon this decade are Theodore Roosevelt and Booker T. Washington.

The Colored Communicants of the Methodist Episcopal Church are clamoring for a bishop. The most prominently mentioned in this connection are Drs. J. W. E. Bowen, C. B. M. Mason, and Editor I. B. Scott of The Southwestern Christian Advocate.

EDUCATION AND BUSINESS.

The State Negro Business League of Arkansas will hold its annual meeting at Little Rock, Ark., December 28, to the 30th, 1903. In commendation of this League, it can be said that the colored men engaged in business in all parts of the State are interested in it and the attendance will be unusually large. The Colored School Teachers' Association will meet in Little Rock at the same time, and the professional men such as lawyers, doctors and ministers from all over the state have been notified to be present. The colored people of Arkansas take the lead when it comes to engaging in and operating business enterprises.

If rumors are true after the first of January of our Lord, 1904, colored passengers will not be allowed to purchase tickets on Pullman sleepers. We live in a strange age. The son of the great war president who signed the Amendments to the Constitution and the Emancipation Proclamation will sign the bill denying to twelve million of American citizens the right to ride on Pullman palace cars. Great was Abraham Lincoln, the father and emancipator.

Mr. John Edward Bruce, the well-known writer and newspaper correspondent (Bruce Grit) is spending a few days in this city. Washington is his old home, and he counts his friends here by the score. He was kept busy shaking hands and renewing the acquaintance of old friends.

Hon. Walter L. Cohen of the General Land Office, New Orleans, La., returned to his Southern home last Thursday.

The friends of Col. Perry H. Carson are urging him to make the race for delegate to the National Republican Convention, from the District. Col. Carson held this position for many years, and filled it with great credit to himself and to the race.

Mr. P. S. Blackwell, editor of The Steelton Press, Steelton, Pa., was an active conventionite this week, and was one of the biggest men on the floor, physically.

Mrs. Wm. Murrell, of 1935 L St., N. W., is the authorized agent and representative for the M. & F., I. & A. School for the colored people at Montrose, Ark. Those desiring to contribute anything for the benefit of this school will please notify Mrs. Murrell.

The Colored American is still regarded regarded by the people as the leading Negro journal in the country.

Mr. William Monroe Trotter, editor of the Boston Guardian, is in the city and is stopping with Mr. H. R. Clark of the Treasury Department.

The most Worshipful Grand Lodge of A. F. M. met at the Masonic Temple on Clay St., Tuesday in its 27th annual session. The following officers were elected for the next term: J. B. Evans, of Lynchburg, Grand Master; W. H. Gaskins, of Accomac, Deputy Grand Master; Harris Barriett of Hampton, Senior Grand Master; George W. Ramsey, of Norfolk, Junior Grand Warden; Douglass Johnson, of Petersburg, Grand Treasurer; Dr. H. L. Harris, Richmond, Grand Secretary; Colonel Benjamin Boulding, of Norfolk, Grand Lecturer; J. C. Carter, of Houston, Grand Senior Deacon; Rev. P. F. Morris, Grand Junior Deacon; Prof. D. Webster Davis, of Richmond, chaplain.

CITY PARAGRAPHS.

Mr. Paul Lawrence Dunbar, reads in Indianapolis, Ind., this week. He is greatly improved in health.

Miss M. E. Gray, sister of Mme. Smallwood, of 1513 Madison ave., is confined to her home by sickness.

Mrs. Tilgman, of 806 M St., N. W., mother of the well-known singer and composer, is very ill.

Mr. A. W. Bowman and wife, one of the best known merchants of Worcester, Mass., are visiting Mr. and Mrs. Wm. Beckett, of 1628 M St., N. W.

Miss Henrietta Vinton Davis, is resting in Memphis, Tenn., preparatory to a series of engagements in Louisville and several points in Indiana and Illinois. Miss Davis is proving a drawing card everywhere.

A large number of our school teaching planning to spend the holidays out of town, as the Christmas guests of relatives and friends. A number of our subscribers have the same plain in mind and are already giving our collectors the old stereotyped phrase "see you after the holidays" which from experience we know doesn't get us a